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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002208

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/11/2013

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [CVIS](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZO1: AMMAN SITREP 34 (4/11 1630 LOCAL)

Classified By: PolCouns Doug Silliman for reasons 1.5 (B)(D).

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General Overview  
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1. (SBU) Embassy Amman was closed for the first day of the local weekend on April 11, and will be closed for the second day of the weekend on April 12. American staff movements remain restricted.

2. (SBU) Absent any significant events, Embassy Amman will take Saturday, April 12 off. Our next sitrep will be on Sunday, April 13.

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Consular Issues  
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3. (U) No new developments to report.

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GOJ Actions/Statements  
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4. (C) King Abdullah and Queen Rania in a joint interview with the official Petra news agency April 10 said that it is the duty of every Jordanian to assist the Iraqi people and to support efforts to provide necessary aid to Iraqis. The King called on the army to set up a field hospital to treat Iraqi wounded, and said he might ask the army to set up a second as well. The King told the Embassy that he wants the hospital to be in Iraq, probably at ar-Ramadi on the Amman-Baghdad highway. The King also ordered that a number of injured Iraqis be brought to Jordan for medical treatment as soon as it is safe for them to make the journey. Information Minister Mohammed Adwan said that first priority of Jordan should be to help Iraqis "overcome this predicament." He declared that the Iraqi people must be the ones to determine their own future.

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Security  
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4. (U) Police report that the situation was calm throughout Jordan April 11.

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Economic and Trade Developments  
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5. (C) FM Marwan Muasher April 10 again publicly denied reports that Jordan is talking to Israel about the possibility of re-opening the Mosul-Haifa oil pipeline. Speaking to al Jazeera, Muasher said warming of relations between Jordan and Israel would be contingent upon further movement on the Roadmap. Energy Minister Batayneh reiterated Muasher's denial to local press, noting the pipeline has been out of use since 1948. According to the local Arabic daily Al Rai on April 10, portions of the line are in serious disrepair, and other portions are currently being used to convey water. Visual inspection of the line by ECON FSN confirmed a pipeline in seriously dilapidated condition. It is unlikely to be feasible to re-open the line (a 12-inch line with a likely capacity of only 200,000 bpd that would need wholesale rehabilitation), though an argument could be made in the future to construct a new line.

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Refugee/Humanitarian Issues  
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6. (U) UNHCR reports a small trickle of TCNs into Jordan April 10-11, but was unable to provide specific numbers or nationalities.

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Press  
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7. (U) Post understands that a group of journalists who crossed the Jordan-Iraq border late afternoon on April 10 on its way to Baghdad, including CBS anchor Dan Rather and several other Amcits, has arrived safely in Baghdad. Another

group of journalists, including several Amcits, crossed the border early April 11 and are reported to be at a 101st Airborne checkpoint short of Baghdad. We also understand that some other journalists of undetermined nationality crossed the Jordan-Iraq border headed for Baghdad later on April 11, but we have no information on there whereabouts.  
GNEHM